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presents

# GODARD

## C I N E M A



MOSTRA INTERNAZIONALE  
D'ARTE CINEMATOGRAFICA  
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA  
Official Selection

1932 **90°** 2022

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Tirée du livre Photographies, d'Anne Wiazemsky (Gallimard)

LE DOCUMENTAIRE DE CYRIL LEUTHY - LE FILM DE PHILIPPE BAILLON - UN FILM DE THOMAS DAPPELO - LES PHOTOGRAPHIES DE GERTRUDE BAILLOT - LE FILM DE CATHY PALUMBO - LE FILM DE VICTOR ROBERT / 10.7 PRODUCTIONS - EN COOPÉRATION AVEC ARTE FRANCE - INA - AVEC LE SOUTIEN DE RTS

AVEC LE SOUTIEN DE CENTRE NATIONAL DU CINÉMA ET DE L'IMAGE ANIMÉE

10.7

arte

RTS  
Radio Télévision  
Suisse

ina

Mediawan, 10.7, ARTE France and l'INA present:

# GODARD

# SEUL LE CINÉMA

France / 2022 / 110 min.

## PRESS NOTES

**A film by**  
**Cyril Leuthy**

**Starring**

Macha Meril, Thierry Jousse, Alain Bergala, Marina Vlady, Romain Goupil, David Faroult, Julie Delpy,  
Daniel Cohn Bendit, Gerard Martin, Nathalie Baye, Hanna Schygulla, Dominique Pains

**World premiere**

Venice International Film Festival 2022  
Venice Classics / non-fiction

Press materials can be downloaded [HERE](#)

## CONTACTS

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## SYNOPSIS

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Jean-Luc Godard is cinema, its quintessence. He has just turned 91, and made more than 140 films. We hate him as much as we worship him. Where does his aura come from? From legendary films of course, but also from Godard himself. He is a public figure as much as a man surrounded by mystery. He is everything, it's opposite and has taken all possible paths.

It is not easy to seize such a sacred, enigmatic monster. Godard's itinerary follows only one direction: a constant renewal of his art. He sees the creative act as a necessary act of criticism and deconstruction." I always start from the negative. I am a positive man who starts from the negative". The artist reinvents himself tirelessly, and inevitably destroys himself.

This portrait takes us beyond the clichés of a myth that has sometimes become caricatural, to meet a man more sentimental than it seems, a man inhabited, sometimes surpassed, by his art. Because yes, Godard is human. Not just a machine who thinks and creates images. He is flesh, blood, emotions.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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What is very motivating with Godard is that he authorises everything: he makes other filmmakers free, free to dare, to try, to challenge habits. To make this film was to explore an artist who, more than many others, has a real faith in his art. To navigate in such an ocean of ideas, films and archives, I followed a path: remain humble and give voice to people who knew him. The film is more about the man than about his cinema, but as for Godard, cinema and life merge, in the end, the film also speaks of cinema.

*Cyril Leuthy, August 2022*

## SCENES FROM THE FILM

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*Macha Meril*



*Thierry Jousse*



*Alain Bergala*



*Marina Vlady*



*Romain Goupil*



*David Faroult*



*Julie Delpy*



*Daniel Cohn Bendit*



*Gerard Martin*



*Nathalie Baye*



*Hanna Schygulla*



*Christophe Bourseiller*

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

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### Cyril Leuthy

Cyril Leuthy graduated from FEMIS in 2002. He then began a successful career as a documentary editor and worked on films such as Mark Kidel's *Becoming Cary Grant* (2016). His first film as a director, *La nuit s'achève (The Night is Fading)*, won the prize for the most innovative first film at Visions du Réel 2015 before it went on to participate in many international festivals. He has since directed several documentaries, including mainly artist portraits such as *Melville le dernier samouraï* (2019) and *Rendez-vous with Maurice Chevalier* (2021).

### FILMOGRAPHY

#### **As a director:**

- 2022 Godard, seul le cinéma - 10point7, ARTE
- 2021 Rendez-vous avec Maurice Chevalier – Eclectic Production  
Opér'apprentis Saison 2 – Académie de l'Opéra de Paris  
Génération Lycée 2021 – Sharing Production
- 2020 La vie bien remplie de Pierrick Sorin – Drole de Trame Production, France Télévision
- 2019 Melville, le dernier Samouraï – Roche Production, ARTE  
Apér'apprentis Saison 1 – Académie de l'Opéra de Paris
- 2018 Carmen, Mimi, Violetta, romantiques et fatales – Et la suite, ARTE, France Télévision  
L'adieu à Solférino – TS Production, Public Sénat
- 2017 Histoires(s) d'orchestre – Production Orchestre de Paris  
Barbara, Chanson pour une absente – INA, Miyu, ARTE
- 2015 La nuit s'achève – Kepler22
- 2002 Le souffle court – FEMIS  
La maison d'Algérie – FEMIS

#### **As an editor for film:**

- 2016 Becoming Cary Grant – Yuzu Production  
1992 – 10 :15 production
- 2012 Traviata et nous – Les films Pelléas  
Noces – Stravinsky/Ramuz – Les films Pelléas
- 2009 Palléas et Melisande, le chant des aveugles – Les films Pelléas
- 2008 Sans Howard – Petit à petit production
- 2006 Max and co – France/Suisse
- 2003 Etoile Violette – Les films Pelléas
- 2002 Mods – Les films Pelléas

## ABOUT JEAN-LUC GODARD

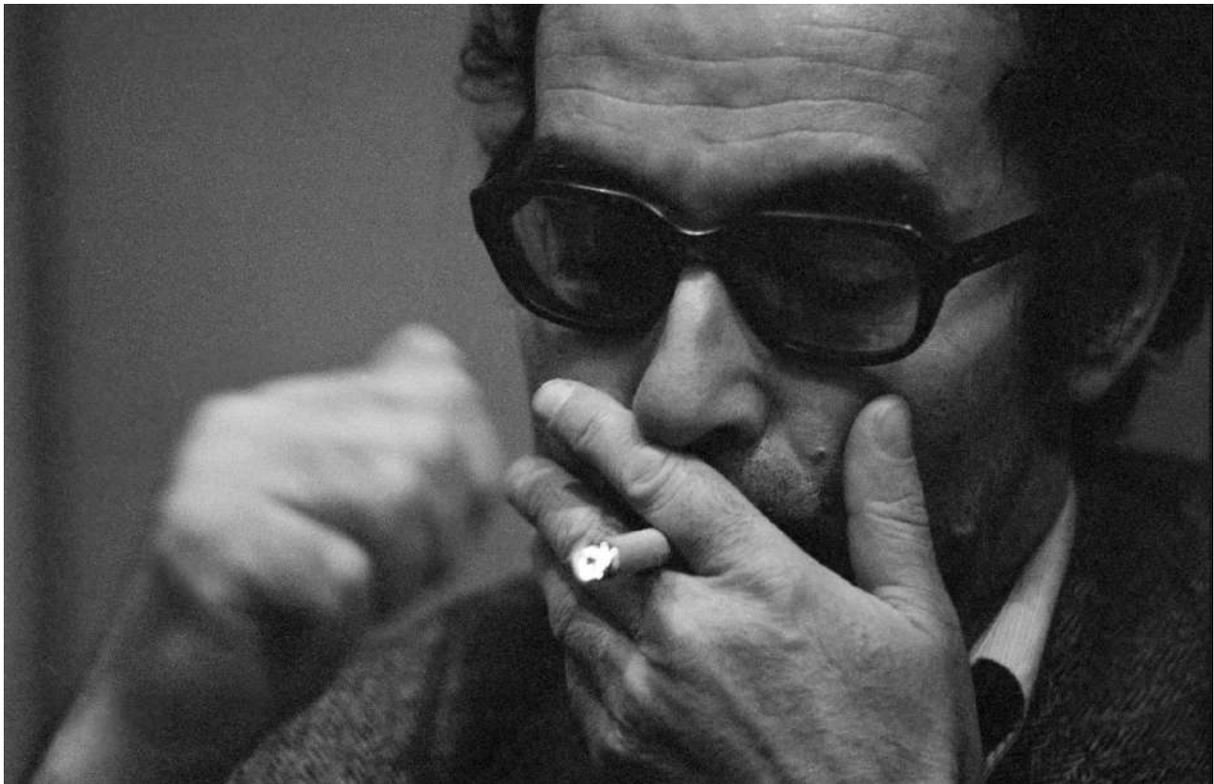
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*“A story should have a beginning, a middle, and an end...  
but not necessarily in that order”*

### Biography

Jean-Luc Godard is a French-Swiss filmmaker born in Paris in December, 1930 and raised in Switzerland. Back to Paris in 1949 to study ethnology at Sorbonne University, that is when he met François Truffaut, Jacques Rivette and Eric Rohmer, other emblematic figures of French Cinema. Throughout his career, beginning with his 1959 masterpiece ***A bout de souffle (Breathless)***, his name appears among the greatest in the cinema industry, renowned for the complete mastery of his work being a screenwriter, a director, and an editor.

As a leading member of the French New Wave, a cinema movement that appeared from the late 1950s to the mid 1960s, Godard and his friends broke into the cinema industry to experiment new ways of expressing themselves in films. Godard's cinema is provocative, controversial, challenging, realistic but also subjective: his vision is mainly based on the idea that contradictions are the essence of life. His work has contributed to the development of a new form of cinema, impacting the world's film industry but mostly the European cinematography culture.



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# Filmography

## French New Wave (1959–1967)

- 1960 : À bout de souffle (Breathless)
- 1961 : Une femme est une femme (A Woman Is a Woman)
- 1962 : Vivre sa vie (My Life to Live)
- 1963 : Le Petit soldat (The Little Soldier)
- 1963 : Les Carabiniers (The Carabineers)
- 1963 : Le Mépris (Contempt)
- 1964 : Bande à part (Band of Outsiders)
- 1964 : Une femme mariée (A Married Woman)
- 1965 : Alphaville: une étrange aventure de Lemmy Caution
- 1965 : Pierrot le Fou
- 1966 : Masculin Féminin (Masculine Feminine)
- 1966 : Made in USA
- 1967 : 2 ou 3 choses que je sais d'elle (Two or Three Things I Know About Her)
- 1967 : La Chinoise
- 1967 : Week-end

## Dziga Vertov Group/political films (1968–1972)

- 1968 : One Plus One (Sympathy for the Devil)
- 1968 : One A.M. (One American Movie)
- 1969 : Le Gai savoir (Joy of Learning)
- 1969 : British Sounds (See You at Mao)
- 1969 : Le Vent d'est (Wind from the East)
- 1972 : Tout Va Bien (Everything's Going Fine)
- 1972 : Letter to Jane

## Transitional period (SonImage) (1974–1978)

- 1975 : Numéro deux (Number Two)
- 1976 : Ici et ailleurs (Here and Elsewhere)
- 1978 : France/tour/détour/deux enfants (France/Tour/Detour/Two Children)

## Second Wave (1979–1988)

- 1980 : Sauve qui peut (la vie) (*Every Man for Himself* in North America and *Slow Motion* in the UK)
- 1982 : Passion
- 1983 : Prénom Carmen (First Name: Carmen)
- 1985 : Je vous salue, Marie (Hail Mary)
- 1985 : Détective
- 1987 : King Lear
- 1987 : Soigne ta droite (Keep Your Right Up)

## **1989–present**

1990 : Nouvelle Vague

1991 : Allemagne année 90 neuf zéro (Germany Year 90 Nine Zero)

1993 : Hélas pour moi (Oh Woe Is Me)

1994 : JLG/JLG, autoportrait de décembre (JLG/JLG: Self-Portrait in December)

1996 : For Ever Mozart

2001 : Eloge de l'amour (In Praise of Love)

2004 : Notre musique

2010 : Film Socialisme

2014 : Adieu au Langage (Goodbye to Language)

2018 : Le Livre d'image (The Image Book)



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## ABOUT THE PRODUCTION COMPANY

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Created in 2011, production company 10.7 is headed by Victor Robert. The company is pursuing an ambitious development and is currently producing a 90' prime docu-drama for France 2, **L'homme de Pékin** by Jacques Malaterre, the 6x30' documentary series for France.TV **No sex!**, a 60' unit **Simone par elle même** by David Teboul for France 5 and the adaptation of **La rafle des Notables** by Anne Sinclair by Gabriel Le Bomin for France 3. Godard seul le cinéma is produced by Cathy Palumbo, who has already produced numerous portraits for Arte, such as **Colette l'insoumise** by Cécile Denjean, **Melville le dernier des samourai** by Cyril Leuthy, **Isabelle Huppert, message personnel** and **Sous le soleil de Pialat** by William Karel.

## PRODUCTION NOTE

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In March 2020, in an online interview, Jean-Luc Godard stated that he would say goodbye to cinema once his last two projects, **Drôle de guerres** and **Scénario**, were completed. In order to pay tribute to him, we, together with Arte, decided to make a feature-length documentary that retraces Godard's extraordinary life and career. In this documentary, we were seeking the Godardian universe without the pretentiousness of imitating Godard. The documentary includes 5 Godardian movements like 5 independent units, in rupture with each other but also aligned by the same genius, the same obsessions, the same quests.

To create this film, we chose to work with Cyril Leuthy as a director. I had the chance to produce the portrait of Jean-Pierre Melville that he directed for Arte, **Melville, le dernier samourai**, and I know his ability to take hold of elusive and mysterious personalities (not only Melville but also Barbara, Maurice Chevalier) to build large stories, to give breath to the archives, to make us feel the depth and complexity of these characters.

It is a joy and an excitement to produce a documentary on Jean-Luc Godard. It's a chance as well as a challenge because the character is so multiple, complex, the work is so genial and experimental, and Godard seems elusive, unattainable. Everyone knows Godard, but no one knows what he is, what he does. To tell the story of Godard is to tell the story of a man with a thousand faces, a man torn between his genius and his humanity, a man who gave everything, perhaps too much, to cinema. It is to tell the story of an existence full of ruptures and upheavals, of blank pages and new chapters to be written, of an unceasing quest for cinema that sometimes breaks the man and his life line. It is also to tell a history of cinema, with more than 140 films made in over 60 years. With his radical cinematographic aesthetic, Jean-Luc Godard is one of the directors who has most impacted the cinema, well beyond the 1960s where he broke rules to create an experimental language of his own. Godard is an artist who pushes the limits of cinema forward, who constantly seeks to define and redefine cinema.

*Victor Robert, August 2022*

## ABOUT MEDIAWAN RIGHTS

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A Paris-based independent distribution company, Mediawan's catalogue offers hundreds of hours of high quality and diversified documentaries, with a strong focus on History, Arts & Culture and Current Affairs programs. They distribute, finance and co-produce programmes for the international market and are looking for ambitious and compelling projects with a global appeal. Their recent titles include ***Kubrick by Kubrick*** directed by Gregory Monro and ***Banksy Most Wanted*** by Seamus Haley, Laurent Richard and Aurélia Rouvier - both selected at Tribeca 2020 - and Katerina Hager's ***A Marriage*** and Benoit Bringer's ***The Caviar Connection*** (Hot Docs 2021).

# CREDITS GODARD SEUL LE CINÉMA

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Written and directed by	Cyril Leuthy
Production company	10.7
Producers	Cathy Palumbo, Victor Robert
In coproduction with	ARTE France, l'INA
Editing	Phillipe Baillon, Cyril Leuthy
Documentation	Véronique Nowak
DoP	Gertrude Baillot
Voice over	Guillaume Gauix
Music	Thomas Dappelo
Artistic advisor	Carole Desbarats
Sound	Guillaume Valeix, Nicolas Paturle
Production manager	Mathilde Lepostec
Graphic designer	Sylvain Bernard
Sound editing	Vincent Dupuis
Color grading	Eric Salleron
With	Macha Meril, Thierry Jousse, Alain Bergala, Marina Vlady, Romain Goupil, David Faroult, Julie Delpy, Daniel Cohn Bendit, Gerard Martin, Nathalie Baye, Hanna Schygulla, Dominique Painsi